

Whitney

S T O W M A R K E T
U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L.

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

KATHLEEN M. HARDING, M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

MEAT AND FOODS INSPECTOR.

SHOPS ACT INSPECTOR.

and

SALVAGE OFFICER.

J. S. FISHER, C.R.S.I., M.A.P.I.

for the year

1961.



STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health - Doctor Kathleen M. Harding,
M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.

Chief Public Health Inspector - Jack S. Fisher,
C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health
Inspector. - John P.E. Rudd,
A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



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STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,
Ipswich Road,
STOWMARKET:

June, 1962.

To The Chairman and Members of the
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1961.

The state of health of the people of Stowmarket has been satisfactory during the year under consideration.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	1,696 acres.
Population (estimated mid-year Home Population, Registrar General's Figures)	...	...	...	...	7,770.	
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	2,538.	
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£130,569.	
Estimated Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£531.	

VITAL STATISTICS.

The local standardised Birth Rate has increased slightly from 14.28 to 14.55.

The local Standardised Death Rate has decreased, whilst the National one shows a slight increase.

(i) BIRTHS. (Registrar General's Figures).

LIVE BIRTHS.

				<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total	...	...	...	62	50	112
Legitimate..	...	...	...	60	47	107
Illegitimate	...	...	...	2	3	5

BIRTH RATE :-

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	=	14.41
Per 1,000 home population - England &		
Wales	=	17.4
Comparability Factor	...	= 1.01
Standardised Birth Rate	...	= 14.55

STILL BIRTHS.

					M.	F.	Total.
Total	-	1	1
Legitimate..	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

STILL BIRTH-RATE:-

Per 1,000 total live and still births	=	8.85
- do -	=	18.7

INFANT MORTALITY (Under One Year).

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total	2	-	2
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate...	-	-	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total	2	-	2
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate...	-	-	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE WEEK OF AGE.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total	2	-	2
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate...	-	-	-

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE:-

Per 1,000 live births..	=	17.86
- do - England and Wales. ...	=	21.4

(ii) DEATHS. (Registrar General's Figures).

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
ALL CAUSES	44	34	78

DEATH RATE:-

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 home population	=	10.04
Per 1,000 home population - England & Wales	=	12.0
Comparability Factor	=	1.02
Standardised Death Rate	=	10.24

CAUSES OF DEATH.

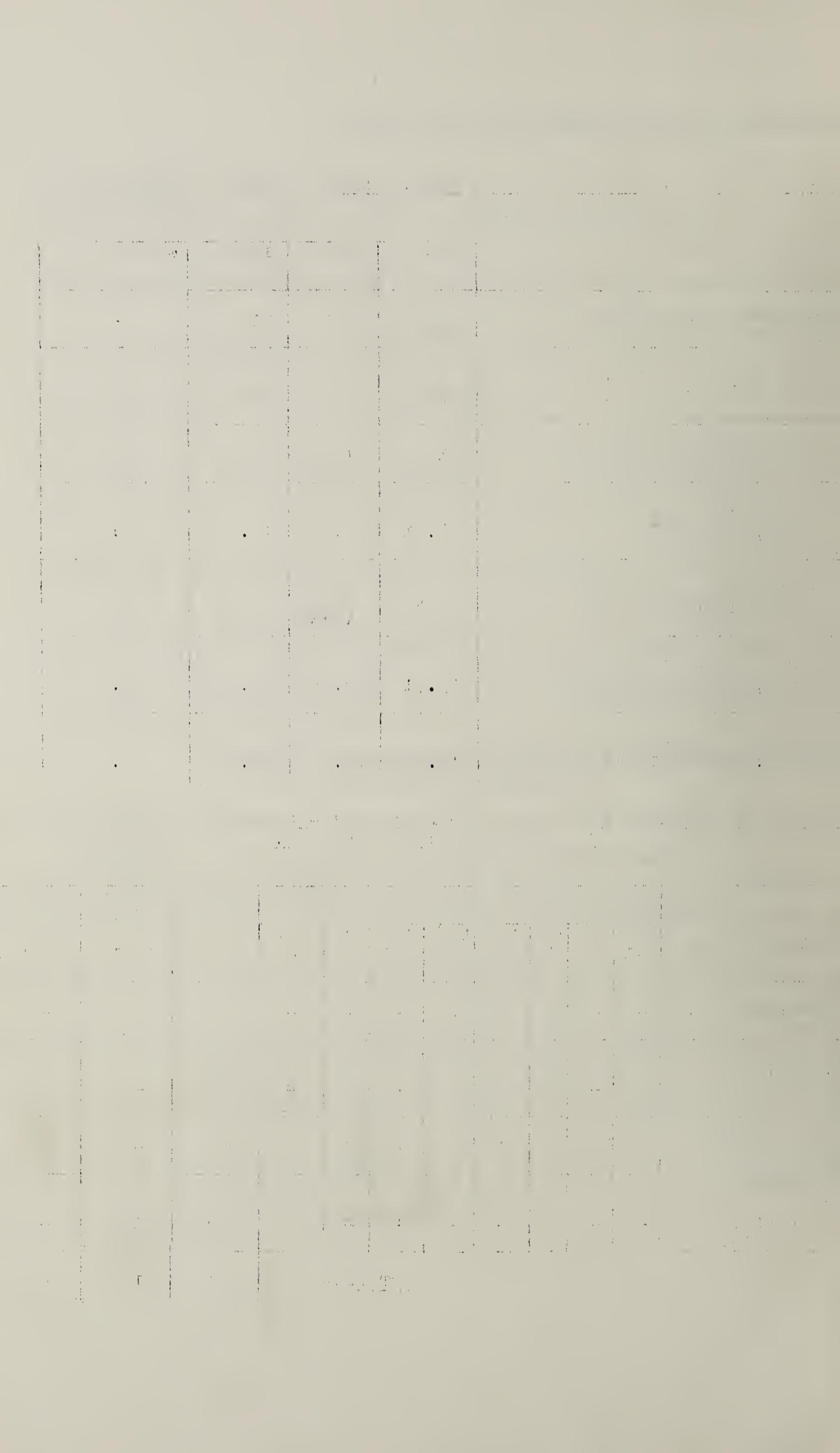
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1961.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1960.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1	-
Malignant neoplasms, stomach	1	1	2	2
" " lung, bronchus	5	-	5	6
" " breast	-	1	1	-
" " uterus	-	-	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	3	4	7	14
Diabetes	-	-	-	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	5	11	7
Coronary disease, angina	12	4	16	18
Hypertension with heart disease	-	2	2	1
Other heart disease	5	4	9	13
Other circulatory disease	1	3	4	9
Pneumonia	3	1	4	5
Bronchitis	3	-	3	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	5	10	5
Motor Vehicle accidents	-	-	-	1
All other accidents	-	1	1	2
<hr/>		TOTALS:-	44	34
			78	92
			<hr/>	<hr/>

COMPARATIVE TABLE FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS.

	1959	1960	1961	England & Wales 1961.
Inhabited houses	2506	2517	2538	-
Population (Registrar General's Figures).	7640	7640	7770	-
Live Births	112	108	112	-
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population.	14.81	14.28	14.55	17.4
Deaths of Infants under One Year.	4	2	2	-
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	35.71	18.51 8.36	17.86	21.4
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population.	12.70	12.28	10.24	12.0

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Excluding Tuberculosis) - Compiled from Notifications received.

Diseases	AGES.									Admit- ed to Hosp- ital.	Deaths.	
	-1	1/ 2	3/ 4	5/ 9	10/ 14	15/ 24	25 +	Not Known	Total			
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	
Whooping Cough	-	-	4	2	1	-	-	-	7	-	-	
Measles	7	46	59	155	7	-	2	2	278	-	-	
Acute Polio- myelitis. Paralytic.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	<u>TOTALS:-</u>									289	1	-



TUBERCULOSIS.

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
(i) New Cases notified	6	1	-	1
(ii) Transferred from another District.	1	-	-	-
(iii) Ages of new and transferred cases:-				

Pulmonary.

7 males - 64, 53, 49, 49, 47, 41, 41, & 41 years.
1 female - 41 years.

Non-Pulmonary.

1 female - 75 years.

(iv) Cases "crossed off the Register as recovered" during the year:-

Pulmonary.

1 male - 49 years.

Non-Pulmonary.

1 male - 10 years.
1 female - 10 years.

(v) Cases "crossed off the Register by removal to other Districts or by death" during the year:-

NIL.

(vi) Cases on the Register at the end of the year:-

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	15	7	22	4	8	12

VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS. (Figures supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.)

(i) SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS.

Primary vaccinations	...	...	72.
Re-vaccinations...	...	...	4.

(ii) IMMUNISATIONS.

(a) PRIMARY.

Diphtheria ...	...	...	4.
Whooping Cough	...	...	-.
Tetanus ...	...	...	14.
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough	...	...	-.
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/			
Tetanus ..	...	135.	

153.

=====

(b) BOOSTERS.

Diphtheria and Diphtheria/	...	84.
Whooping Cough	...	

(iii) POLIOMYELITIS.

No separate figures for this District are available for Poliomyelitis vaccinations.

SECTION 47 OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No formal action was necessary during the year.

FOOD.

Information under this heading is given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one open air swimming bath which is owned and maintained by the Council. It is supplied with mains water.

The water is treated with break point chlorination and is filtered. It is changed at the rate of 20,000 gallons per hour. The pool is emptied completely and cleaned out once a year.

Analyses of the water during the year have been most satisfactory.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Sewage Works operated satisfactorily, but considerable difficulty continued to be experienced, particularly during the Winter months, in the drying and disposal of sludge. The Council's Consultants are preparing a scheme to provide additional facilities for sludge disposal.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1959.

Action taken under the Factories Acts, 1937, and 1959, is detailed in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

KATHLEEN M. HARDING,

Medical Officer of Health.

STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,
Ipswich Road,
STOWMARKET.

JUNE, 1962.

To The Chairman and Members of the
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1961.

Introduction.

The closing of the slaughterhouse, on the expiry of the lease, at the rear of the Stowmarket Co-operative Society's premises in Bury Street early in the year, made it possible for much closer attention to be given to other Statutory duties, and advantage was taken to make detailed and regular inspections of all premises coming within the scope of the Food Hygiene Regulations; of Factories under the relevant provisions of the Factories Acts, 1937-1959, and including sites of Building operations; visiting Farms and Horticultural Holdings for the purposes of the Agricultural (Safety, Health, and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956; and for bringing all records up-to-date.

The slaughterhouse referred to had for the previous six years been operated by a firm of Wholesale Meat Traders, prior to which it had been, since the outbreak of World War II, a Government Central Slaughterhouse. The throughput, particularly in recent years, had been far in excess of the capacity of the premises, and frequent daily visits had to be paid to ensure that every carcase was inspected, and that the various Regulations were complied with. Although no public health nuisance occurred, it was a source of constant worry, apart from which its location in a built-up area in the centre of the Town was open to very serious objection. It has now ceased to be used as a slaughterhouse.

Special observations for the purposes of the Clean Air Act, 1956, were made on thirty-two occasions, and resulted in a considerable diminution of smoke emissions.

Two-hundred-and-eleven water samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. These were nearly all taken in the area supplied from the Poplar Hill Waterworks, and followed an unsatisfactory sample, which, though not necessarily dangerous in itself, indicated a possible potential danger. The probable cause of the trouble was being dealt with by the Water Engineer, and twice-weekly sampling in the area continued into 1962.

The coming into operation of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, involved a fair amount of work. A survey disclosed eleven sites, none of which had specific planning consents or site licences, and they were occupied by some 24 caravans, 14 of which had been given individual planning consents and licences, eight others being occupied by Travelling Showmen for the Winter, and the remainder having moved on to sites without consents or licences. All owners or occupiers of sites occupied by caravans were informed of the requirements of the new Act, and as a result eight applications for planning permission and licences were received, three of which were approved - one for six caravans (Sand Pit Farm, Victoria Road), for a period of five

years; one for one caravan (on Field O.S.311, Prestons Hill) for one year pending the erection of a Stockman's bungalow; and one for one year at the Bury Road Caravan Sales Site (for occupation in connection with the caretaking and supervision of the site). An application for a second caravan on this site was refused, and an appeal against this refusal was dismissed. One site was for Travelling Showmen in Winter quarters, and as such was exempt from licensing. Two sites - rear of Nos. 16-52, Regent Street, and Field O.S.635, Combs Lane - ceased to be used, and action was pending in respect of sites at the rear of the "Dukes Head" Inn, Ipswich Street; the Old Piggeries, Bridge Street; rear of Edgars Farm, Combs Lane; and land at the "Cedars" Guest House, Needham Road. No action was proposed regarding a field adjoining "Ambleside" Finborough Road, which had been used very occasionally over a period of many years for one or two caravans.

Caravans have not been a serious problem in this District hitherto, but the new Act is one which strengthens the hands of local authorities in dealing with what in some districts is undoubtedly a very serious problem indeed, and which could well become one here. It is a matter for regret that no legal standard of overcrowding in caravans is prescribed, and particularly so where children are involved.

Fifty-three enquiries regarding Improvement Grants were dealt with. Nine applications for Discretionary Grants and nineteen for Standard Grants were approved. One Discretionary and seven Standard Grant applications were in respect of tenanted houses. Two applications had to be refused because the houses were in a Re-Development Area; in three cases the applicants decided not to proceed; nine others were unable or unwilling to comply with all the requirements; and one applicant died before the improvement work could commence. The remainder did not get beyond the enquiry stage.

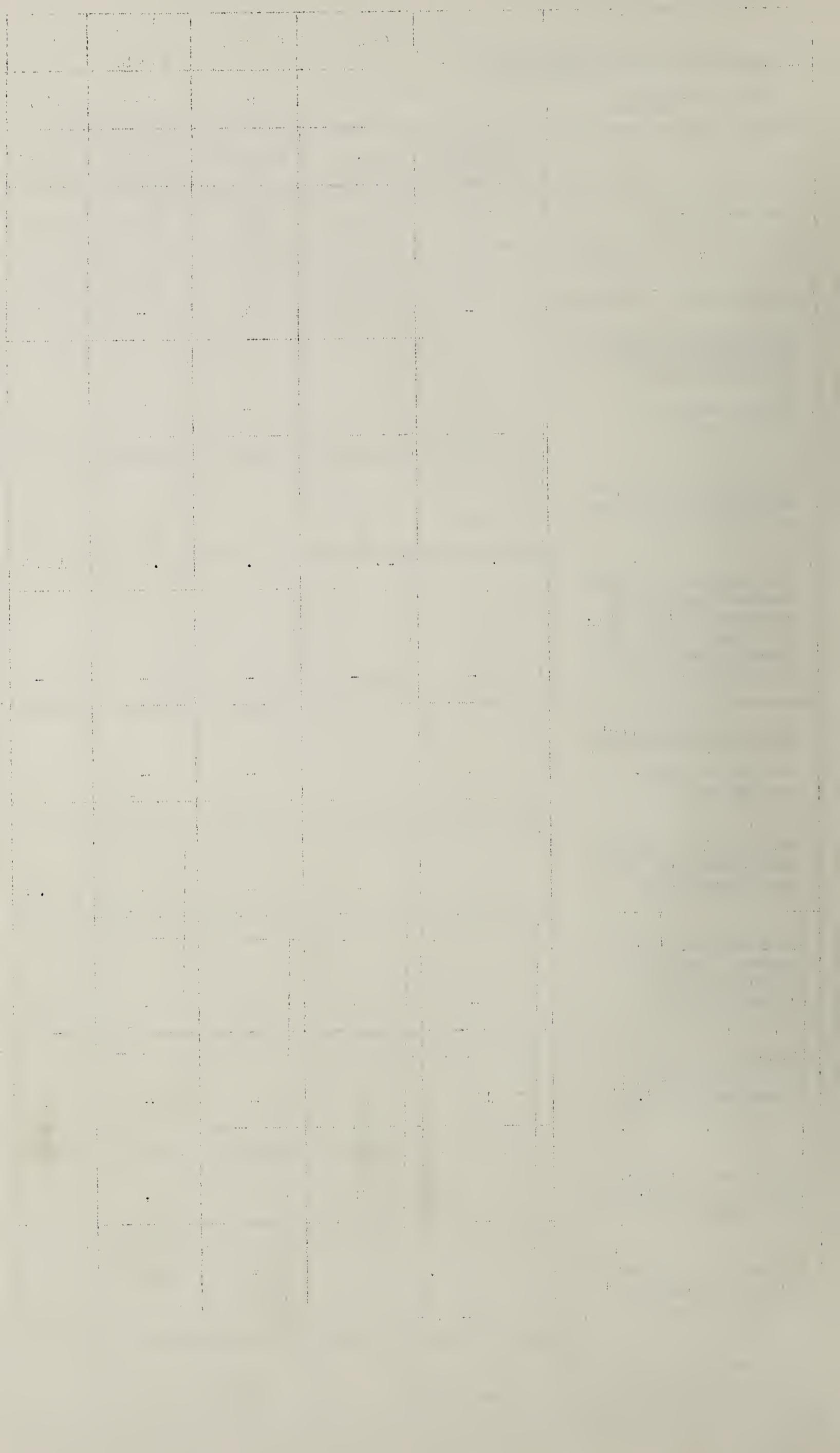
The number of inspections listed under the various headings refer to formal inspections for specific purposes under the relevant Acts and Regulations. A number of other visits were paid to many of these premises, and at all times observation was made for infringement of the various Statutes and Orders with which the Public Health Department is concerned. For example, fifty-six formal inspections of the Sausage and Pie Factory are recorded, but the slaughterhouse at these premises was visited five days every week; and sometimes twice daily, throughout the year, and the premises as a whole were under observation at each visit. Similarly with Meat Delivery vans; twenty-seven actual inspections are recorded, but the vans were given the "once over" each time they were seen delivering to the shops, and similar remarks apply to the whole of the work.

The following is a brief summary, in statistical form, of the work carried out during the year:-

1. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

(a) (i) MEAT.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs
Number killed	644	255	36	956	5,232
Number inspected	644	255	36	956	5,232
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	1	1	-	12
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned.	62	82	-	63	642
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.	9.63	32.55	2.8	6.6	12.5
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	273
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	5.2
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	x	x	x
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.	12	10	x	x	x
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	5	3	x	x	x
Percentage of Cattle inspected affected with Cysticercosis.	2.45		x	x	x



(a)(ii) Comparison with three previous years.

	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1959.</u>	<u>1960.</u>	<u>1961.</u>
(i) <u>Animals killed.</u>				
Cattle	6,001	4,515.	5,284.	899.
Calves	303	156	257	36
Sheep and Lambs	4,598	9,705	7,568	956
Pigs	17,148	15,205	11,519	5,232
Totals :-	28,050	29,581	24,628	7,123
	=====	=====	=====	=====
(ii) <u>Condemned.</u>	1bs.	1bs.	1bs.	1bs.
Meat	34,541	24,741 $\frac{1}{2}$	13,127	6,038
Offal	39,589 $\frac{1}{2}$	29,308 $\frac{1}{2}$	20,422 $\frac{1}{2}$	4,058
Meat from other Districts	-	155	-	427
Imported Meat	28	36	24	47 $\frac{1}{2}$
	=====	=====	=====	=====
(iii) <u>Percentage of Animals slaughtered affected with disease.</u>				
(a) <u>All diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>				
Cattle, excluding Cows	16.37	23.39	15.23	9.63
Cows	25.0	29.0	30.46	32.55
Calves	3.96	6.5	1.75	2.8
Sheep and Lambs	3.7	5.85	1.96	6.6
Pigs	10.43	10.56	14.17	12.5
(b) <u>Tuberculosis only.</u>				
Cattle, excluding cows	4.7	2.63	0.22	-
Cows	13.7	5.8	0.99	-
Calves	0.33	3.9	0.44	-
Pigs	3.29	2.78	3.41	5.2
(c) <u>Cysticercus only.</u>				
Cattle, including cows.	0.58	0.6	1.14	2.45

The following observations on the foregoing figures are of some interest:-

(iii)(a) All diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.
Cattle, excluding Cows.

The lower percentage under this heading is due to the fact that after the closing of the Wholesale Slaughterhouse early in the year, only high quality cattle were slaughtered in the Town.

Cows.

These were all slaughtered at the Wholesale Slaughterhouse, and the percentage affected was rather higher than in previous years.

Calves.

This figure is roughly comparable with those of previous years.

Sheep and Lambs.

The percentage affected was somewhat higher than in previous years.

Pigs.

The percentage affected was roughly comparable with previous years.

(iii)(b) Tuberculosis.

This is the first year ever in which no Cattle were found to be affected with Tuberculosis. Ten years ago 7.49% of Cattle other than Cows, and 20.65% of Cows slaughtered in the Town were found to be affected. The fact that the disease has at last been virtually eradicated reflects the efficacy of the measures taken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to this end.

Unfortunately this disease is by no means uncommon among Pigs, and the percentage found to be affected in the year under review is rather higher than for a number of years.

(iii)(c) Cysticercosis.

This shows an increase on the figures for previous years, and it appears to be the position in a number of Districts. There is no available evidence of the extent to which humans are affected by the tapeworm.

(b) TINNED AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

	<u>Tins, jars, etc.</u>	<u>lbs. ozs.</u>	<u>Fluid ozs.</u>	<u>Equiv. pints.</u>
Fish	31	13. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$.	-	-
Fruit and Conserves.	174	187. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.	-	-
Meat, Pastes, etc.	136	451. 0 $\frac{1}{4}$.	-	-
Milk	Bulk	18. 4.	-	-
	45	14. 5.	-	42 $\frac{5}{8}$
Soups	7	5.12.	-	-
Vegetables.	84	72. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.	-	-
Miscellaneous.	126	44. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$.	68	-
	Bulk	150. 6	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	603	788.12 $\frac{3}{4}$	68	42 $\frac{5}{8}$
	Bulk	168.10	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Totals:-</u>		<u>957. 6$\frac{3}{4}$</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>42$\frac{5}{8}$</u>
		<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>

(c) TOTAL WEIGHT OF ALL FOODS CONDEMNED.

5.147 tons (approximately).

(d) DISPOSAL OF UNSOUND FOOD.

Meat and Offal - Collected by the Suffolk Fat and Bone Co., Oulton Broad. Sale by the Council and refund to Owners, practised in recent years, was discontinued on closure of the Wholesale Slaughterhouse.

Tinned and Other Foods - Buried at the Council's Refuse Tip.

(e) SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The Slaughterhouses Report pursuant to Section 3 of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, which was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food on the 12th October, 1960, was accepted by the Minister, and the 1st October 1961 was the day appointed from which all slaughterhouses in the Urban District must comply with the Construction Regulations.

As mentioned in the preamble to this Report, the slaughterhouse at the rear of No. 22, Bury Street and belonging to the Stowmarket Co-operative Society Ltd. and in recent years operated by the Stowmarket Meat Traders Ltd. was closed early in the year. This left two slaughterhouses in the Town - one at No. 47, Bury Street owned and operated by Messrs. W.H. Aldis & Son, and one at the Garden Factory, Bond Street, owned and operated by Messrs. W.A. Turner Ltd. These were brought up to the standard required by the Regulations and were licensed. They have been well conducted and maintained.

(f) SLAUGHTERMEN'S LICENCES.

Seven slaughtermen's licences - one for a person slaughtering under supervision - were issued during the year.

2. FOOD.

(a) FOOD PREMISES.

A detailed inspection of all Food Premises was carried out, and complete records made in each case.

The following is a list of the various premises visited, with the number of inspections made specifically for the purposes of the Food Hygiene Regulations and the follow-up where actual infringements were found:-

	<u>No. of premises.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
Bakers and Confectioners	6	22
Bread Distribution Centre	1	6
Butchers	8	26
Creamery and Dairies	3	8
Egg Packing Centre	1	2
Fish, Fried	5	14
Fish, Wet	2	3
Greengrocery and Fruit	6	6
Grocery and Provisions	7	53
Grocery Warehouses	2	17
Ice Cream	32	73
Ice Cream Vans	4	14
Maltings and Mills	6	6
Meat Delivery Vans(Wholesale).	9	27
Mobile Shops	1	4
Poultry Dressing and Packing	1	1
Restaurants, Hotels and Cafes.	10	62
Sausage and Pie Factory	1	56
Works Canteens	2	4
Market Food Stalls		Weekly.

The various food premises were, generally speaking, in reasonably good condition and well managed, but constant vigilance is necessary to ensure full compliance at all times with the various regulations, particularly bearing in mind the not infrequent turn-over of staff. Nothing of a serious nature occurred, and where infringements were discovered they were dealt with informally.

Complaints regarding three dirty milk bottles and two of foreign matter in food were taken up with the Firms concerned, but the circumstances did not warrant formal action.

(b) PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.s.16.

For sale and storage of Ice Cream	-	32.
For manufacture of Sausages, etc.	-	9.
Fried Fish Shops	-	5.

(c) MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1959.

Number of Distributors on the Register - 4.

(d) MARKET FOOD STALLS.

These consisted of Fish, Fruit, and Vegetable, and Sweet Stalls, and were inspected weekly.

3. HOUSING.

(a) New Houses - (Statistical, and not actual work of the Department).

Council Houses or Flats completed during the year	-	None.
Houses completed by Private Enterprise	-	21.
Council Houses or Flats under construction at 31/12/61	-	None.
Houses under construction by Private Enterprise at 31/12/61.	-	49.

(b) HOUSING ACT, 1957 - SLUM CLEARANCE.

(i) Action completed prior to 31/12/61.

Houses demolished	-	13.
Houses and Flats closed	-	12.
Undertaking accepted and houses made fit	-	5.

(ii) Action initiated prior to 1961 but not concluded at 31/12/61.

<u>Clearance Order.</u>	<u>Address.</u>	<u>No. of Houses.</u>	<u>Result.</u>
1956/3.	3-7, Union Street.	3.	No further action.
1956/4.	15-17, Needham Road.	2.	Not yet demolished.

Demolition Orders.

6/2/59.	3, Stricklands Road.	1.	Not vacated.
6/2/59.	5, Stricklands Road.	1.	Vacated.

(iii) Action during 1961.

(a) Houses in which defects were remedied.

(c) Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958. (as amended).

(i) Improvement Grants.

Enquiries dealt with during the year	-	53.
Total number of schemes approved for Grant purposes to 31/12/61.	-	118.
Total amount of Grants certified for payment to 31/12/61	-	£15,830.19.3d.

(ii) Discretionary Grants.

Schemes approved for Grant during the year	-	9.
Amount of Grants approved	-	£1505.
Total number of Grants approved to 31/12/61	-	80.
Total amount of Grants approved	- do -	£13,221.18.9d.

(iii) Standard Grants.

Schemes approved for Grant during the year	-	19.
<u>Maximum</u> amount of Schemes approved -do-	-	£2515.
Total number of Grants approved to 31/12/61	-	38.
Total amount of Grants certified for payment to 31/12/61		£2,615. 3. 0d.

4. CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960.

Number of Caravan Sites licensed	-	3.
Number of exempted sites (Showmen's Winter Quarters)	-	1.
Number of unlicensed sites remaining in use at 31/12/61.	-	4.
Number of sites discontinued	-	2.

5. DRAINAGE.

Number of existing properties connected to the sewer during the year	-	1.
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6. WATER SUPPLY.

Routine samples taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination:-

From services off the Town (Station Road) supply	-	9.
From services off the Town (Poplar Hill) supply	-	5.
From two private boreholes	-	3.

These received satisfactory reports. A sixth sample, taken from the Poplar Hill Supply, received an adverse report, as did samples from the two reservoirs. The Water Engineer was informed, and immediate remedial action was taken. Daily sampling from various points was resorted to, with the following results:-

Direct from rising main at Pumping Station	- 26	- Satisfactory.
Before going into supply:-		
High level	- 17	- do-
Low Level	- 17	- do-
From services off these supplies	- 41	- mostly unsatisfactory.
	58	- Satisfactory.
	1	- Unsatisfactory.
	26	- Satisfactory.

(Frequent samples taken early in the New Year continued to receive satisfactory reports).

7. SWIMMING AND PADDLING POOLS.

Three samples each from the Swimming and Paddling Pools were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, and all were reported as satisfactory.

8. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937-1959.

Number of Factories on the Register:-

Power	-	58.
Non-Power	-	2.
Other premises (Building sites, etc.)	-	11.
Number of inspections	-	74.
Number of cases in which defects were found	-	17.
Number of cases in which defects were remedied	-	16.

9. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

Number of excessive smoke emissions dealt with - 14.

One coal-fired furnace (Violet Hill Laundry) was converted to oil-burning as a result of informal action and a nuisance which had persisted for some considerable time was thus remedied.

10. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Number of premises on the Register	-	2.
Number of inspections	-	2.

11. PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Licences issued	-	1.
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12. AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956.

Number of agricultural properties	-	11.
Number of inspections	-	7.

13. INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Cases investigated:-

Poliomyelitis	-	1.
Scarlet Fever	-	3.

14. COMPLAINTS.

251 complaints were received and dealt with.

15. NOTICES.

133 informal notices were given.

16. RODENT CONTROL.

Dwelling houses treated	-	247.
Other premises treated	-	46.
Known Kill (Carcases recovered):-		
Rats	-	1199.
Mice	-	143.
Wasps' nests destroyed	-	19.

17. REFUSE COLLECTION.

Weekly collections of house refuse were made throughout the District, and the Collectors have continued to give satisfactory service.

The position in regard to the provision of refuse bins by the Council under Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, was as follows at the 31st December, 1961:-

Bins supplied or renewed during the year	-	28
Total number of bins issued since December 1950	-	517
Returned to Stock for re-use	-	10
Total number written off, worn out	-	113
Number not replaced	-	17
Total number in service at 31st December, 1961	-	394

18. TRADE REFUSE.

Trade refuse was collected regularly from 113 premises.

19. SALVAGE.

Collections and sales of waste paper were as follows:-

		<u>tons.</u>	<u>cwts.</u>
Waste paper, all grades, in Stock 1/1/61		13	3
-do-	-do- collected 1961	191	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
-do-	-do- sold 1961	200	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
-do-	-do- in Stock 31/12/61	4	4
Proceeds of Sales, 1961.	-	£1,735.19.	4.
Value of Stock 31/12/61	-	£35.17.	9.

20. CONCLUSION.

This is the sixteenth Annual Report I have submitted to this Council, and it will be my last complete Report, as I shall reach retiring age in December of this present year, after 51 years all but three weeks in the Public Service, 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ years of which have been spent in Public Health work. Many changes have taken place during this time, the one constant perhaps being the low status accorded the Public Health Inspector, albeit his title has advanced over the years from that of Inspector of Nuisances!

Fifty years ago, much of the work of an Inspector consisted of dealing with nuisances, offensive accumulations, bad and defective drainage, bad housing, overcrowding, infectious diseases, disinfection and disinfestation, slaughter-houses - of which there were far too many, and generally badly sited and equipped, and often badly conducted - bakehouses, workplaces, cowsheds and dairies, etc., etc. These still remain within the purview of the Public Health Inspector, but to-day much more is required. To quote from the Report of the Working Party set up in 1951 by the then Minister of Health, "a Public Health Inspector needs to have a good working knowledge - in many cases a detailed knowledge - of certain techniques and sciences. The number of variety of these is the outstanding feature of his work. Thus, while not himself practising medicine, architecture, engineering, or building, he must know something of them all, and this calls for a very special type of training." To the Working Party's list should be added meat and food technology, smoke control and clean air, noise abatement, and a sound knowledge of all the relevant Statutes and Orders.

In the early days, an Inspector was often regarded with a certain amount of hostility and as one "coming to make trouble" instead of one endeavouring to remedy trouble which already existed, or to perhaps prevent trouble arising. To-day, much of this hostile attitude has been overcome, and, particularly perhaps in the smaller districts, generally speaking, a happier relationship obtains.

Many of the old insanitary conditions have been remedied, but many still remain, and without constant vigilance many would undoubtedly return. It cannot be denied that generally speaking living and working conditions are very much better than they were, food supplies are much safer, and people are much healthier - and should be much happier, though it is open to doubt if many of them are - than were people 50 years ago. Much of this is due to the work of the Health Services, of which the Public Health Department of every Local Authority forms a not unimportant part. The work does not usually produce immediate, obvious, and spectacular results. On the contrary, it is often frustrating and disappointing, and it is only when the situation is viewed over a period of time that real progress is apparent. To quote from one of my earlier Reports - "There are many advances one would like to see in all matters pertaining to the Public Health, but these can seldom be of a spectacular nature, and they are most often achieved by quiet and persistent day-to-day work. They pass unobserved at the time, and are later accepted as a matter of course."

I will not attempt to catalogue what has been achieved since I took office in Stowmarket in 1946, but regrettably record one thing which has not, and that is the clearance of a number of unfit houses. One can only hope that this will not be long delayed.

Another matter for regret is that more advantage has not been taken of the available grants for the improvement of houses which are lacking modern amenities. Far too many houses are without a bath and indoor toilet and hot water supply, and therefore, cannot be regarded as in all respects reasonably suitable for human habitation. Those houses which are structurally sound and have a substantially useful life in them should be brought up to a modern standard of amenity, and it may well be that some form of compulsion will have to be brought to bear to preserve them as useful and suitable homes.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I acknowledge with sincere appreciation the confidence placed in me by present and past members of the Council. I acknowledge also the happy relations which have existed among the Staff, and the friendliness and co-operation of the public with whom my duties have brought me into contact.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

J.S. FISHER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.
Meat and Foods Inspector,
and Salvage Officer.

